

Remarks

Claims 31-47 are pending in this application, with claims 31, 34, 38, and 43 being the independent claims. Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action states on page 3 that claims 31-47 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-26 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,690,753 B2. In response to this rejection, Applicants have filed herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection of claims 31-47 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

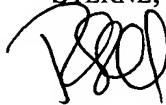
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all currently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Kwon *et al.*
Appl. No. 10/724,036

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert Sokohl
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,013

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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